

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 061125

73

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:BZOOK:MB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

C:MR. SHINN

INR: MRS. MAUTNER (PHONE)

S/S :JMEALUM

----- 110861

O 182341Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 061125

EXDIS TOSEC 717

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PROP, UR, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: RESTRAINED SOVIET
APPRAISALS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT. WITHIN ONE WEEK TWO LENINGRAD LECTURERS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HAVE GIVEN MORE SOBER AND RESTRAINED APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS THAN IS CUSTOMARY EITHER ON THE LECTURE CIRCUIT OR IN THE MEDIA. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THEME WAS THAT DETENTE IS NOT FARING AS WELL UNDER THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AS IN THE NIXON PERIOD, WITH SPECIFIC CRITICAL REFERENCES TO US "DISCRIMINATION" ON TRADE, KISSINGER'S "INTRIGUE" IN MIDDLE EAST, AND THE CONTINUING ARMS RACE. IN THE PAST LENINGRAD LECTURERS HAVE BEEN MORE FRANK THAN THEIR MOSCOW COUNTERPARTS AND ON OCCASION THEIR STATEMENTS HAVE HERALDED THE OFFICIAL LINE. LENINGRAD LECTURERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE AMONG THE FIRST SOVIET SOURCES TO STATE THAT 1972 SUMMIT WAS STILL ON AFTER US ANNOUNCED DECISION TO BOMB HANOI AND MINE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 061125

HAIPHONG. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. IN TWO SUCCESSIVE LECTURES IN LENINGRAD'S CENTRAL LECTURE HALL ON MARCH 9 AND 16 SOVIET OFFICIALS MODIFIED THE STANDARD LINE ON US-USSR RELATIONS.

3. REGARDING PRESIDENT FORD, LENINGRAD APPRAISALS WERE NOT DIRECTLY CRITICAL, AND ONE STATED THAT DURING HIS VLADIVOSTOK VISIT HE WAS "FRIENDLY." BUT PRESIDENT'S CONDUCT OF DETENTE POLICY WAS COMPARED UNFAVORABLY WITH THAT OF "PRAGMATIC, EXPERIENCED, BOLD" NIXON. THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS OVER THE TRADE BILL WERE ALSO NOTED AND A MILDLY PESSIMISTIC PROGNOSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CHANCE FOR ELECTION IN 1976 WAS GIVEN.

4. TRADE IMBROGLIO AND US MIDDLE EAST POLICY WERE THE MAJOR POINTS OF CRITICISM. WITH REGARD TO THE FORMER, LECTURER PREDICTED IT UNLIKELY THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN US TRADE LEGISLATION BEFORE 1976 ELECTIONS AND THUS US-SOVIET TRADE WILL REMAIN AT CURRENT ANNUAL LEVELS. CRITICISM OF US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST REITERATED STANDARD THEMES THAT IT IS DESIGNED TO DIVIDE ARABS AND OBTAIN ADVANTAGES FOR US IN AREA. YOUR EFFORTS AT OBTAINING FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT WERE DISMISSED AS "INTRIGUE" AND YOUR BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW WAS CITED AS EVIDENCE US DOES NOT WANT TO TURN COMPLETELY AWAY FROM COLD WAR.

5. CONTINUATION OF SALT TALKS WAS NOTED, BUT WITH CRITICAL COMMENT THAT US STILL CONTINUING ARMS RACE. OPTIMISM NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED THAT 10-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL BE READY FOR SIGNING WHEN BREZHNEV VISITS US.

6. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS PROVIDED IN ONE LECTURER'S ASSERTION THAT VLADIVOSTOK WAS CHOSEN AS SITE FOR FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT TO PROVE TO CHINESE THAT AREA IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED PART OF SOVIET UNION.

7. IN SUM, LENINGRAD APPRAISALS RAISED NO BASIC
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 061125

OBJECTION TO DETENTE RELATIONSHIP WITH US. NECESSITY OF DEALING WITH US TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND THE US WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR WANTING TO AVOID WAR IN MIDDLE EAST DESPITE SHARP CRITICISM OF ITS POLICY THERE. BUT A MORE SOBER APPRAISAL OF DETENTE PROSPECTS WAS BEST REFLECTED IN ONE LECTURER'S COMMENT THAT "NOT EVERY YEAR WILL SEE AS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AS IN RECENT YEARS."

8. CLEARED BY INR, C AND EUR.

INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE LAW, SPEECHES, TOSEC 717
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE061125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BZOOK:MB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0831
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750338/aaaabiqk.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: RESTRAINED SOVIET APPRAISALS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, UR, US
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006